



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Kinzie Gordon

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-028 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Temporary Employee Housing (24625)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Ensure that no vegetation greater than 6" be removed from the project site.
- Ensure that the hazardous limbs are removed from the Black Oak on the southwest side of the dorm in the project area prior to installation of the temporary tent cabins.
- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.

- Ensure archeological monitoring accompanies ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and is designed to retrieve archeological data.
- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units and implementation of permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision.
- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.

//David V. Uberuaga// 3/15/09

David V. Uberuaga

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2009-028 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Temporary Employee Housing

PIN: 23951

Date: May 20, 2010

Project Description: This project would provide 6 units of temporary infill housing adjacent to the Ahwahnee employee dorm for 12 concessionaire employees. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hard-sided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessionaire (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with tent cabins recently removed from the Ahwahnee dorm vicinity and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Ahwahnee developed area and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and will be portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

This project would install six temporary, portable kiosk-like canvas-walled tent cabins in previously disturbed areas adjoining the historic Ahwahnee dorm. The dorm lies within the developed area of the Ahwahnee, a National Historic Landmark, and is within the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The dorm also lies approximately 150 feet west of the western extent of archeological site CA-MRP-292/293/H a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring

would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

The approximately 12' x 14' x 9', dual-occupancy temporary tent cabins would be placed in two groupings of three. Three of the temporary cabins would replace three former employee tent cabins (removed in 2007) on the north side of the dorm. The other three temporary tent cabins would be installed southwest of the dorm along a new, 100-foot-long unpaved access path. All temporary tent cabins will be placed on temporary on-grade 2'-tall concrete pier foundations in previously disturbed/developed areas. Prior to placing the temporary cabins south of the dorm, blackberry shrubs will be cleared, and hazardous tree limbs will be removed from an oak at the SW dorm corner; no trees > 6 inches in diameter will be removed. New access paths will be unpaved and surfaced with wood chips or similar. All temporary structures will be similar in design and exterior finish (e.g., white canvas) to the tent cabins previously located at the site and to those existing elsewhere in Yosemite Valley (see attached photo). To the extent feasible, materials salvaged from tent cabins in the closed portions of Curry Village will be used at this site to assure compatibility with the historic setting. A bear-proof, lockable food storage locker will be provided at each tent cabin (see attached photo). Additional details on bear-box design are provided as supplemental information in the attached Project Review File.

All tent cabins will comply with National Fire Protection Act 1 Uniform Fire Code; chapter 25 requirements (see attached information from NPS Fire Marshall).

Existing electrical power will be extended from the dorm to the new temporary units via drops from new power poles. Up to 3 new temporary poles will be installed in 5'-deep, 18"-diameter holes. Propane will be supplied to each cabin via shallow (18" deep) subsurface piping from the existing onsite propane piping beneath the dorm. Propane lines will be installed in hand-excavated trenches; where the propane line crosses a shallow ditch on the north side of the dorm (see site plan), the line will be suspended below the existing footbridge. Existing shower, bath, laundry, and kitchen facilities in the employee dorm and existing employee parking are adequate to support the additional 12 employees who will reside in the temporary tent cabins; therefore, construction of additional support facilities or parking spaces is not planned as part of this project. A 10' x 40' temporary construction staging area will be located on the existing paved Ahwahnee parking lot for a period not to exceed 30 days. A site plan is included in the Project Review File.

Replacement of three former tent cabins north of the Ahwahnee employee dorm, and infill of three additional temporary tent cabins southwest of the dorm will have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property, or The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark. Installation of new temporary power poles and temporary extension of propane distribution piping will have no adverse effect on subsurface archeological remains; archeological monitoring of excavations for power poles and propane lines will be conducted as deemed necessary by Resources Management and Science Division staff. There may be a moderate short-term negative impact on traditional cultural resources and cultural and religious practices that will be mitigated when the temporary housing is removed.

Project Locations:
Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Avoid the removal of the manzanita bush on the southwest side of the Lost Arrow housing area near the post office garage.
- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and

follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.

- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.
- Ensure archeological monitoring accompanies ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and is designed to retrieve archeological data.
- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units upon implementation for permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision.
- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.8. Replacement in-kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance--for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

//David V. Uberuaga//

Park Superintendent

3/15/09

Date

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF) DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

Today's Date: **March 16, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **03/13/2009**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-028 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Temporary Employee Housing**

PEPC Project Number: **23951**

Project Type: **Temporary Housing (OTHER)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California** District: **Yosemite Valley**

Project Leader: **Kinzie Gordon**

Administrative Record Location: **Environmental Planning and Compliance Office**

Administrative Record Contact: **Mark Butler**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project would provide 6 units of temporary infill housing adjacent to the Ahwahnee employee dorm for 12 concessionaire employees. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hard-sided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessionaire (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with tent cabins recently removed from the Ahwahnee dorm vicinity and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Ahwahnee developed area and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and will be portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in

the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

This project would install six temporary, portable kiosk-like canvas-walled tent cabins in previously disturbed areas adjoining the historic Ahwahnee dorm. The dorm lies within the developed area of the Ahwahnee, a National Historic Landmark, and is within the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The dorm also lies approximately 150 feet west of the western extent of archeological site CA-MRP-292/293/H a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

The approximately 12' x 14' x 9', dual-occupancy temporary tent cabins would be placed in two groupings of three. Three of the temporary cabins would replace three former employee tent cabins (removed in 2007) on the north side of the dorm. The other three temporary tent cabins would be installed southwest of the dorm along a new, 100-foot-long unpaved access path. All temporary tent cabins will be placed on temporary on-grade 2'-tall concrete pier foundations in previously disturbed/developed areas. Prior to placing the temporary cabins south of the dorm, blackberry shrubs will be cleared, and hazardous tree limbs will be removed from an oak at the SW dorm corner; no trees > 6 inches in diameter will be removed. New access paths will be unpaved and surfaced with wood chips or similar. All temporary structures will be similar in design and exterior finish (e.g., white canvas) to the tent cabins previously located at the site and to those existing elsewhere in Yosemite Valley (see attached photo). To the extent feasible, materials salvaged from tent cabins in the closed portions of Curry Village will be used at this site to assure compatibility with the historic setting. A bear-proof, lockable food storage locker will be provided at each tent cabin (see attached photo). Additional details on bear-box design are provided as supplemental information in the attached Project Review File.

All tent cabins will comply with National Fire Protection Act 1 Uniform Fire Code; chapter 25 requirements (see attached information from NPS Fire Marshall).

Existing electrical power will be extended from the dorm to the new temporary units via drops from new power poles. Up to 3 new temporary poles will be installed in 5'-deep, 18"-diameter holes. Propane will be supplied to each cabin via shallow (18" deep) subsurface piping from the existing onsite propane piping beneath the dorm. Propane lines will be installed in hand-excavated trenches; where the propane line crosses a shallow ditch on the north side of the dorm (see site plan), the line will be suspended below the existing footbridge. Existing shower, bath, laundry, and kitchen facilities in the employee dorm and existing employee parking are adequate to support the additional 12 employees who will reside in the temporary tent cabins; therefore, construction of additional support facilities or parking spaces is not planned as part of this project. A 10' x 40' temporary construction staging area will be located on the existing paved Ahwahnee parking lot for a period not to exceed 30 days. A site plan is included in the Project Review File.

Replacement of three former tent cabins north of the Ahwahnee employee dorm, and infill of three additional temporary tent cabins southwest of the dorm will have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property, or The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark. Installation of new temporary power poles and temporary extension of propane distribution piping will have no adverse effect on subsurface

archeological remains; archeological monitoring of excavations for power poles and propane lines will be conducted as deemed necessary by Resources Management and Science Division staff. There may be a moderate short-term negative impact on traditional cultural resources and cultural and religious practices that will be mitigated when the temporary housing is removed.

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X			Project includes installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality		X			Construction of temporary WOBs will cause temporary air emissions.
4. Soundscapes		X			Temporary construction noise is associated with this project.
5. Water quality or quantity	X				
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems,	X				Yosemite National Park is

biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites					a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			See Comment 1, below.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				
18. Archeological resources		X			Yosemite Valley Archeological District and site CA-MRP-56/51; the assessment of effect is No Adverse Effect with monitoring of power pole installation
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	X				
20. Cultural landscapes		X			Yosemite Village Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, and Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property; mitigated with the conditions in the attached assessment of effects.
21. Ethnographic resources		X			Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				

24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

1. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals and noxious weeds. All staff working on the project shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of nonnative, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X		Mitigated, the assessment of effects is "No Adverse Effect."
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning		X		

alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?				
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		X		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **Yes, the tribes that are culturally associated with the project area.**

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? **Yes**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **Yes**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**

F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Larry Harris	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Acting Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Acting Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Kinzie Gordon	Project Leader
Teri Tucker	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance
	Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

G. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>3/16/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Mark Butler	<u>3/16/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>3/16/09</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//David V. Uberuaga//</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>3/19/09</u>

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **April 1, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 24625

Project Type: Temporary Employee Housing (OTHER)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District: Yosemite Valley

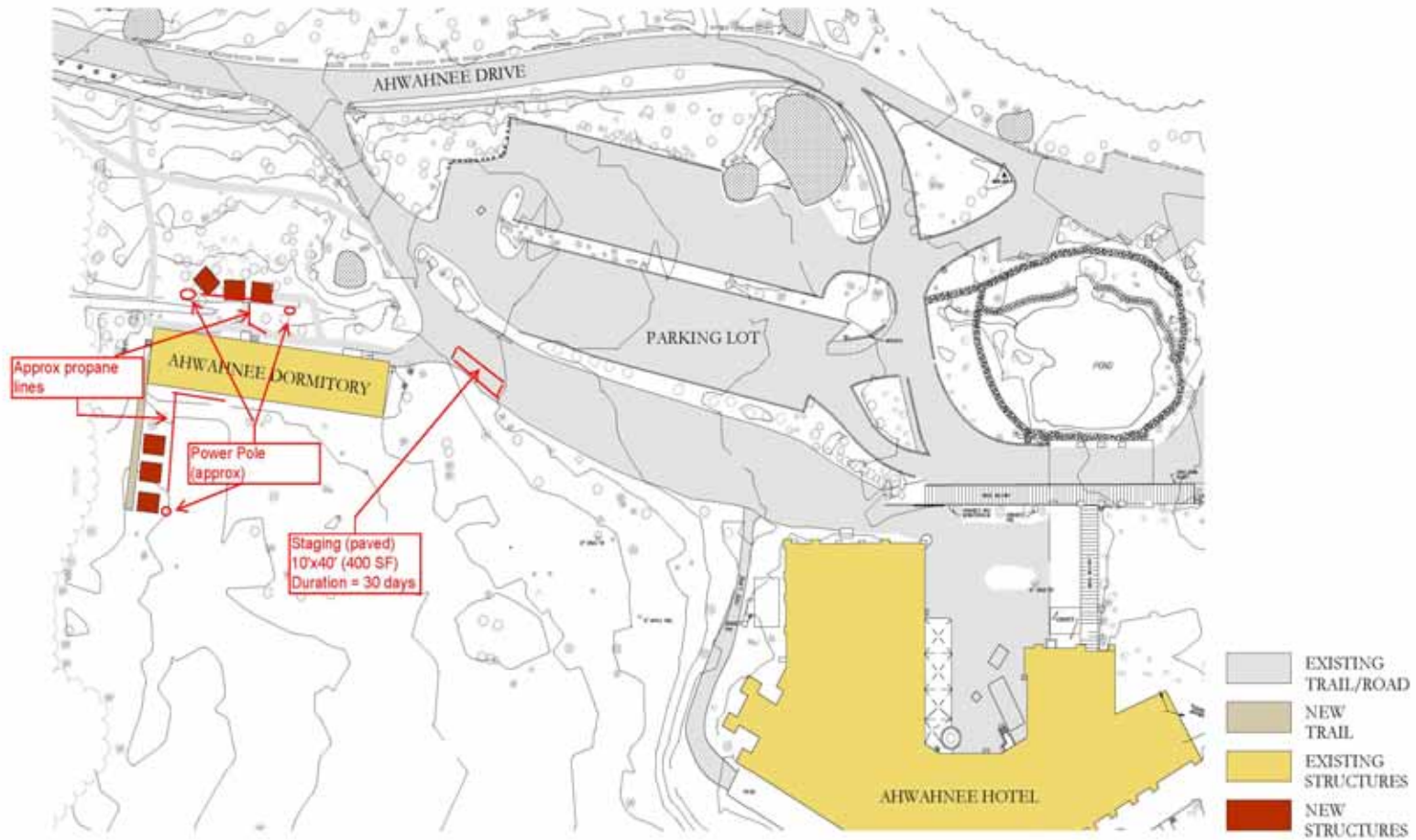
Project Manager: Randy Fong

Project Title: 2009-028 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Temporary Employee Housing

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

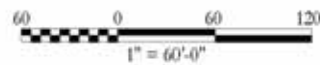
ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			Project includes installation of 3 new temporary power poles in 18"-diameter, 5'-deep holes, and installation of approximately 300' of temporary propane piping to a depth of 18"
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			Yosemite Valley Archeological District and CA-MRP-292/293/H. The assessment of effect is no adverse effect with monitoring of ground disturbing activities for retrieval of archeological materials
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			Yosemite Valley Historic District and Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark. The assessment of effect is no adverse effect.
10. Has a National Register form been completed?		X		
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	X			Ahwahnee Dorm
12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	X			Merced River

14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		X		
16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?		X		
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		X		
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		
100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		



AHWAHNEE DORM AREA CONCEPT PLAN

CURRY VILLAGE INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
JANUARY 16, 2009



ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP
ROYSTON HANAMOTO ALLEY & ABEY
PROVOST & PRITCHARD



Fire Code Compliance

PROJECT SPECIFIC COMMENTS from Don Coffman, Fire Marshall

YOSEMITE VALLEY AHWAHNEE TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE HOUSING #24625

- Tents shall comply with NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code Chapter 25. Key references below:
 - 25.2 Tents.
 - 25.2.2.1 All tent fabric shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria contained in NFPA 701, Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films. [101:11.11.2.1]
 - 25.2.2.2 One of the following shall serve as evidence that the tent fabric materials have the required flame propagation performance:
 - (1) The AHJ shall require a certificate or other evidence of acceptance by an organization acceptable to the AHJ.
 - (2) The AHJ shall require a report of tests made by other inspection authorities or organizations acceptable to the AHJ. [101:11.11.2.2]
 - 25.2.3.3 Tents not occupied by the public and not used for the storage of combustible material shall be permitted to be erected less than 10 ft (3050 mm) from other structures where the AHJ deems such close spacing to be safe from hazard to the public. [101:11.11.3.3]
 - 25.2.3.4 Tents, each not exceeding 1200 ft² (112 m²) in ground area and located in fairgrounds or similar open spaces, shall not be required to be separated from each other, provided that safety precautions meet the approval of the AHJ. [101:11.11.3.4]
 - 25.2.3.5 The placement of tents relative to other structures shall be at the discretion of the AHJ, with consideration given to occupancy, use, opening, exposure, and other similar factors. [101:11.11.3.5]
 - 25.2.4.1 The finished ground level enclosed by any tent, and the finished ground level for a reasonable distance, but for not less than 10 ft (3050 mm) outside of such a tent, shall be cleared of all flammable or combustible material or vegetation that is not used for necessary support equipment. The clearing work shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the AHJ prior to the erection of such a tent. The premises shall be kept free from such flammable or combustible materials during the period for which the premises are used by the public. [101:11.11.4.1]
 - 25.2.5 Fire-Extinguishing Equipment. Portable fire-extinguishing equipment of approved types shall be furnished and maintained in tents in such quantity and in such locations as directed by the AHJ. [101:11.11.5]
- Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detection is required for all structures where sleeping occurs. Potential for CO poisoning with use of propane heating. Concessionaire to continue exploring best detector combination to meet this need prior to occupancy.

From: "Devon Rothell" <drothell@dncinc.com>
To: <kinzie_gordon@contractor.nps.gov>, "Kinzie Gordon"
<Kinzie_Gordon@URSCorp.com>
cc: <Don_McLarty@contractor.nps.gov>, "Brian Fulce" <bfulce@dncinc.com>,
<jim_vandenberg@nps.gov>, "Donald McLarty" <Donald_McLarty@URSCorp.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 02:15PM
Subject: Additional Information for the CVIMP CE Packages

Kinzie,

I have additional information to inform the CE packages. I apologize for the delay. This is the final version.

ELEVATIONS

10X12 and 12X14 tent cabins have an approximate height of 9 feet at the center and 5ft at the sides. Platforms are approx. 2ft tall so a tent cabin is 11 feet at its tallest from the ground.

WOBs will be constructed per the previously approved specs for temporary WOBs at Lost Arrow. The exteriors will be painted to match the other structures at each location with previously approved exterior colors.

Trailer - I believe you have the specs for the trailer but just in case the current trailers are approximately 9 feet tall with a 2.5 foot foundation height for a total of 11.5 feet. However, the proposed trailers have pitched roofs so there is an additional 4 feet of height at center for proper shedding. Total height is approx 15.5 feet.

EXTERIOR FINISHES

The trailers' exteriors consist of T1-11 siding that will be painted tan with Oxford brown trim, exactly the same as the current common trailers at Huff. The trailers will have skirting to cover the open space at the bottom of the trailer to the ground that will also be T1-11 and painted tan. All colors have been approved colors for existing buildings in Yosemite Valley. Roofing materials will be architectural asphalt three-tab shingles which comply with the architectural guidelines for Yosemite.

BEAR BOXES

One bear box will be installed at each employee housing unit (tents and WOBs). Bear boxes will be relocated from Curry Village and installed at each of the employee housing sites. These bear boxes are approximately 4'WX4'LX2'H and have legs that can be placed directly on ground or on 2X4" pressure treated wood. In addition, other available bear boxes may be used. These are smaller at 2'WX4'LX2'H and do not have legs. These bear boxes are placed on pressure treated 2X4" lumber as well. Bear boxes are placed directly next to tents with circulation patterns considered. Minimal ground leveling may be required for proper use.

If you have any questions Kinzie, please call me. I can clarify any of these descriptions if needed. We do not have drawings for tent cabins.

Devon Rothell



Typical Tent with Bear Box



National Park Service

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite NP Park District: Yosemite Valley

2. **Project Description:**

a. Project Name: 2009-028 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Temporary Employee Housing Date: March 16, 2009 PEPC Project ID Number: 24625

b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c]).

This project would provide 6 units of temporary infill housing adjacent to the Ahwahnee employee dorm for 12 concessioner employees. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hard-sided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessioner (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with tent cabins recently removed from the Ahwahnee dorm vicinity and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Ahwahnee developed area and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and will be portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved

in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

This project would install six temporary, portable kiosk-like canvas-walled tent cabins in previously disturbed areas adjoining the historic Ahwahnee dorm. The dorm lies within the developed area of the Ahwahnee, a National Historic Landmark, and is within the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The dorm also lies approximately 150 feet west of the western extent of archeological site CA-MRP-292/293/H a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

The approximately 12' x 14' x 9', dual-occupancy temporary tent cabins would be placed in two groupings of three. Three of the temporary cabins would replace three former employee tent cabins (removed in 2007) on the north side of the dorm. The other three temporary tent cabins would be installed southwest of the dorm along a new, 100-foot-long unpaved access path. All temporary tent cabins will be placed on temporary on-grade 2'-tall concrete pier foundations in previously disturbed/developed areas. Prior to placing the temporary cabins south of the dorm, blackberry shrubs will be cleared, and hazardous tree limbs will be removed from an oak at the SW dorm corner; no trees > 6 inches in diameter will be removed. New access paths will be unpaved and surfaced with wood chips or similar. All temporary structures will be similar in design and exterior finish (e.g., white canvas) to the tent cabins previously located at the site and to those existing elsewhere in Yosemite Valley (see attached photo). To the extent feasible, materials salvaged from tent cabins in the closed portions of Curry Village will be used at this site to assure compatibility with the historic setting. A bear-proof, lockable food storage locker will be provided at each tent cabin (see attached photo). Additional details on bear-box design are provided as supplemental information in the attached Project Review File.

All tent cabins will comply with National Fire Protection Act 1 Uniform Fire Code, chapter 25 requirements (see attached information from NPS Fire Marshall).

Existing electrical power will be extended from the dorm to the new temporary units via drops from new power poles. Up to 3 new temporary poles will be installed in 5'-deep, 18"-diameter holes. Propane will be supplied to each cabin via shallow (18" deep) subsurface piping from the existing onsite propane piping beneath the dorm. Propane lines will be installed in hand-excavated trenches; where the propane line crosses a shallow ditch on the north side of the dorm (see site plan), the line will be suspended below the existing footbridge. Existing shower, bath, laundry, and kitchen facilities in the employee dorm and existing employee parking are adequate to support the additional 12 employees who will reside in the temporary tent cabins; therefore, construction of additional support facilities or parking spaces is not planned as part of this project. A 10' x 40' temporary construction staging area will be located on the existing paved Ahwahnee parking lot for a period not to exceed 30 days. A site plan is included in the Project Review File.

Replacement of three former tent cabins north of the Ahwahnee employee dorm, and infill of three additional temporary tent cabins southwest of the dorm will have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property, or The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark. Installation of new temporary power poles and temporary extension of propane distribution piping will have no adverse effect on subsurface archeological remains; archeological monitoring of excavations for power poles and propane lines will be conducted as deemed necessary by Resources Management and Science Division staff. There may be a moderate short-term negative impact on traditional cultural resources and cultural and religious practices that will be mitigated when the temporary housing is removed.

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

 No

 X Yes Source or reference The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District; Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.

 Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District -
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark - -
NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property
NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

 No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

 No Replace historic features/elements in kind

 No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

 No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

 Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

 No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

 No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

 No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

 No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

 No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

_____ Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:

(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units and implementation of permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River CMP/EIS/ROD.
- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments: ☐ Maps ☐ Archeological survey, if applicable ☐ Drawings ☐ Specifications
☐ Photographs ☐ Scope of Work ☐ Site plan ☐ List of Materials ☐ Samples
☐ Other _____

Prepared by: Jeannette Simons **Date:** 3/16/09

Title: Historic Preservation Officer **Telephone:** 209-379-1372

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] ARCHEOLOGIST

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/12/2009

Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.h - archeological monitoring during ground disturbance

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect
☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[] CURATOR

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐ Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] ANTHROPOLOGIST

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 03/16/2009

Comments: American Indian Liaison.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect
☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.

[X] HISTORIAN

Name: Patrick Chapin

Date: 03/16/2009

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect
☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[] HISTORICAL ARCHITECT

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic
Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 03/12/2009

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect
☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[] 106 Advisor

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: _____ No Historic Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect _____ Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

[] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[] B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

[] C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.
Specify plan/EA/EIS: _____

[x] D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.
Specify: _____

[] E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

[] F. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse

effects.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer: //Jeannette Simons//

Date 3/16/09

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature of Superintendent //David V. Uberuaga//

Date 3/16/09

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*